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Communications Office (under DCI, then in [redacted])

Office of Communications\*

Before March 20, 1953 O/Commo was in DD/P. After that [redacted]  
During the first part of the period 1953-56 O/Commo (like OTR,  
above) retained its special status of a major operating office that was  
accountable directly to the DCI. Effective early in February 1955,  
O/Commo was reassigned to the reorganized DD/S group. With a long-  
established history under various organizational arrangements dating back  
to the very beginnings of CIG and CIA in 1946-47,<sup>1</sup> the Office of Communi-  
cations (as it was called since late 1950) continued to serve as the  
~~classified electronic tele-~~  
Agency's major support office for communications between 1953 and 1956.  
Its responsibilities extended to a variety of related functions, includ-  
ing special operational, logistical, engineering, training, security,  
and intelligence functions in the communications field that set O/Commo  
somewhat apart, organizationally and procedurally, from the regular  
support pattern normally to be found in the DD/A and DD/S group.

Aside from its internal organizational changes between 1953 and  
1956, which are outlined below, O/Commo had a noteworthy continuity of  
key personnel. [redacted] head of the Office 25X1A

[redacted] continuously from 1951 to the present time, served first under the title  
Assistant Director of Communications (AD/CO), under the DCI, and later,  
beginning February 16, 1955, <sup>DD/P and then under</sup> as Director of Communications (D/CO), under  
the DD/S. [redacted] Deputy during almost all of this entire period, 25X1A  
until May 1, 1956, was [redacted] 25X1A  
[redacted] who served under the title

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first of DAD/CO (1951-55) and then of DD/CO (Feb. 1955-April 1956). On  
May 1, 1956, [redacted]

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[redacted]  
The internal organization of O/Commo's headquarters, as of January 1953, included the following principal staffs and divisions, according to the Agency directory:

- Assistant Director for Communications (AD/CO)
- Deputy Assistant Director (DAD/CO)
- Executive Officer (OC-2)
- Plans and Policy Staff (OC-P)
- Administrative Staff (OC-A)
  - Personnel Branch
  - Registry
- Engineering Division (OC-E)
- Operations Division (OC-O)
  - Training Branch (parent division or staff not indicated; under Operations?)
- Security Division (OC-S)
- Signal Center (S/C)  
[redacted]

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[redacted]  
This organizational pattern continued unchanged from January 1953 to July 1954, when another division was added--the Supplemental Programs Division (OC-SP).<sup>3</sup> Shortly thereafter, by October 1954, the Operations Division (OC-O) was renamed (and reorganized?) as the Operations and Training Division (OC-O&T).

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by 26 Dec 55

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The February 1955 reorganization of the DD/A group as the DD/S group, previously outlined, had no apparent effect on O/Commo's internal organization, insofar as changes may have been reflected in the Agency directory. Except for the redesignation of the AD/CO and his Deputy as the D/CO and DD/CO, respectively, on February 16, 1955, the organization chart showed no change whatsoever in O/Commo until more than a year later. These later changes were as follows.

By April 1956 the Engineering Division (OC-E) had established a new Branch--the Material Support Branch (MSB). The Branch was at least new in the directory, if not actually a new responsibility in O/Commo. 25X1A

On May 1, 1956, a new position of Special Assistant to the D/CO was established, with [redacted]

[redacted]  
to that position. About the same time, the position of Executive Officer  
from Directory (in charts 17Feb56 & 13Jan60)  
disappeared. Whether these several changes of position were interrelated  
is not known.

Several other changes of nomenclature also appeared simultaneously  
in the next directory (July 1956 ed.), as follows. The Registry became  
"Records Control" (OC-RC); the Plans and Policy Staff became the "Policy  
and Planning Staff" (OC-P); and the Training Branch became the "American  
Activities Branch (Training)." Whether these were more than changes in  
name and represented significant changes of jurisdiction, program, or  
procedure in O/Commo is not known.

17 Feb 56 Under EX. O.

As of December 1956 (the end of the 4-year period under historical  
review), O/Commo's staffs, divisions, and branches were organized as

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fellows, listed according to their order in the Agency directory  
<sup>1</sup>  
(Jan. 1957 ed.):

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<sup>1</sup> All of these units were located in I Building during the 1953-56 period (and earlier), except for the Engineering Division (in Alcott Hall) and the Signal Center (in L Bldg.).

<sup>2</sup> The "branch" status of these three units is inferred from their position in the directory, but has not been verified.

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